

32. A support post for use with a support apparatus as claimed in Claim 31, wherein the post has a plurality of parallel annular rebates spaced along its length.

33. A support post as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the post comprises a plurality of individual segments which interfit with each other.

34. A support post as claimed in Claim 32, including a resilient O-ring located in one of said rebates.

35. A support post as claimed in Claim 33, including a resilient O-ring located in one of said rebates.

REMARKS

The claims in the application are 12-15 and Claims 22-35 added by the present amendment.

Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Page 5, lines 2-5 of the specification have been amended to correctly refer to plug 13 and tube 11, in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Office Action (it is believed the Examiner intended to refer to page 5, line 1). A proposed drawing correction inserting the reference numerals for tube 11 and annular lip 27 on Figs. 8A and 8B is enclosed in accordance with paragraph 7 of the Office Action. Additionally, another complete set of formal drawings of Figs. 1-13 is enclosed. It is respectfully requested that receipt of the formal drawings be acknowledged upon the next official communication from the Patent and Trademark Office. The correction to the drawings

made on the formal set herein also eliminates the remaining objections to the specification set forth in paragraph 6 of the Office Action.

The amendment to the claims herein also eliminates the formal rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph set forth in paragraph 8 of the Office Action. Claims 12 and 13, which have been indicated allowable in paragraph 10 of the Office Action, have been amended into appropriate independent form (Claims 14 and 15 depend from Claim 13). A marked up copy of the claims and specification is enclosed. Claims 22-35 introduced herein find clear support in the preceding set of pending claims and accompanying description in the specification and illustration in the drawings. Currently, Claims 22-25 and 27-35 read upon the elected embodiment. Accordingly, the only outstanding issue is the art rejection of the claims.

More particularly, Claims 1-4, 8, 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 4,726,552 to Warshawsky and under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 6,471,363 to Howell et al in paragraph 9 of the Office Action, while Claims 1-4, 7-11, 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent nos. 5,794,908 to East et al or 5,901,200 to Krause.

Concerning the comment preceding paragraph 9 of the Office Action, it is respectfully pointed out that the claims presented in the present application are directed to the support apparatus per se and not to a combination with a display device. In any event, it is respectfully asserted that the invention as recited in all pending claims herein

is patentable over the applied art, for the following reasons (reference will be made to preferred embodiments of the present invention illustrated in the drawings of the present application).

As recited, e.g., in independent Claim 22 presented herein, the present invention is directed to support apparatus comprising an arm 2 having proximal 2C and distal 2A ends, first mounting means 2C, 36 at the proximal end 2C for mounting the arm 2 on a fixed support 3, and a universal joint 5 being provided at the distal end 2A of the arm 2 with a quick release mechanism 4 connected thereto. The quick release mechanism 4 comprises a male part 95 having second mounting means 98 thereon for attaching an article 1 to be supported on the arm 2, and a female part 90 which releasably cooperates with the male part 95, the female part 90 being connected to the universal joint 5. In other words, the male 95 and the female 90 parts are releasably engageable with one another.

The features of the presently claimed invention are neither taught nor suggested by the applied art for the following reasons.

East et al do not disclose a quick release mechanism having two separate parts that can be coupled together, with one of those parts attached to a universal joint. In Fig. 3 of East et al, the universal joint 18 is composed of yoke 16 and base 20 which is connectable to a U-shaped flange 22 to secure the universal joint 18 to a wheelchair frame 6 (column 2, line 67 – column 3, line 8). Even if clamp 22 could be considered analogous to a quick release mechanism, then clamp 22 is not in the form of a two-part

quick release mechanism as recited in the claimed invention, namely having a male part 95 with mounting means 98 for attaching to the article 1, and a separate female part 90 connected to the universal joint 5.

The quick release mechanism shown in Fig. 3 of Krause has a first coupling part 5 and a second coupling part 7 attached to a vertically oriented support 10 to be movable in a vertical direction as shown in Fig. 1 (column 3, lines 15-20). In a second embodiment shown in Fig. 2 coupling part 7 is attached to a vertically movable telescoping part 18 (column 3, lines 43-50). Articulated linkages 8 and 9 are located between the first coupling part 5 and carrier 4 (column 3, lines 8-14). Therefore, neither of cooperating parts 5 and 7 includes mounting means for securing to the article 4 to be supported by the arms 16, 17, 18 as recited in the claimed invention.

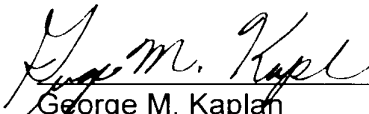
Warshawsky fails to disclose a universal joint, with all movement in the Warshawsky device taking place in a horizontal plane. Fig. 16 of Howell et al fails to disclose a universal joint positioned in the fashion of the presently claimed invention; a universal joint is not shown at the end of arm 666. If couplings 651 and 655 of Howell et al. could be regarded as a quick release coupling mechanism (column 20, lines 50-63), then arm 666 to which this quick release coupling 651, 655 is attached does not include a universal joint at a distal end thereof to which this quick release coupling is connected.

The remaining art of record has not been applied against the claims and will not be commented upon further at this time.

Accordingly, in view of the forgoing amendment, accompanying remarks, and explicit statements in the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, then it is respectfully requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the earliest convenience to discuss the present application. A petition for an automatic one month extension of time for response under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) is enclosed in triplicate together with the requisite petition fee.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


George M. Kaplan
Reg No. 28,375
Attorney for Applicant

DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP.
333 Earle Ovington Blvd.
Uniondale, NY 11553
(516) 228-8484



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Instead of retaining the end plugs [12]13 and 17 and 25 and 35 in their respective tubes 11 [12] and 24 using the rods 23 or 30, these rods can be omitted and grub screws used (not shown) which screw into the plugs from the exterior of the tube in known manner.

IN THE CLAIMS:

12. A support [as claimed in claim 11 wherein] for an electrical display device, comprising
mounting means configured to suspend the display device therefrom,
said mounting means including a quick release mechanism to allow the display device to be readily and quickly detached from the support, wherein
the quick release mechanism comprises a male attachment member which protrudes from the rear of the mounting means,
said male attachment member having a head which is received in a rebated slot provided in a female attachment member attachable to the support,
the quick release mechanism includes locking means biased to engage when the head of the male attachment member is fully seated in the rebated slot in the female attachment member,
an actuator extends from the locking means for manual operation by a user, and

the actuator is a lever which extends beyond the periphery of the display device when mounted on the support.

13. A support [as claimed in claim 4, wherein] for an electrical display device, comprising

mounting means configured to suspend the display device therefrom,

said mounting means including a quick release mechanism to allow the display device to be readily and quickly detached from the support, wherein

the support is an arm having mounting means at its end remote from the quick release mechanism for attaching to the support which is a support post,

said mounting means includes a pivot joint which allows the arm to move from side to side in a horizontal plane,

the mounting means is a collar or sleeve which fits over and around the support post, and

the collar is a tube open at both ends, the tube being of a constant internal diameter except at one end thereof which [where the end region increases in diameter except at one end thereof where the end region] increases in internal diameter to provide an internal chamfered edge around said one end.